

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 6-14, 18-24, 26, 30-32, 36-37 have been amended. Claims 1-5, 15-17 and 33-35 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 38-46 have been added. Therefore, claims 6-14, 18-32 and 36-46 now are presented for examination.

Claim Objections

Claims 17, 19, 35 and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim 17 and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 19 and 37 now depend from claim 6 and 20, respectively, having allowable matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection of claims 19 and 37.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Iwaya et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,392,295 ("Iwaya").

Claims 6, 7, 11, 20 25 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sato et al., U.S. 2002/0000645 ("Sato").

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of the references; however, for the sake of expediting issuance of this case, Applicant has incorporated the allowable limitations of claims 15-17 into claim 6 and of claims 33-35 into claim 20. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawals of the rejection of claims 6 and 20 and their dependent claims. Claim 1-5, 15-17 and 33-35 have been cancelled

without prejudice.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-16, 18, 20-34 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Werbizky, U.S. Patent No. 4,814,857 (“Werbizky”).

Claims 1-16, 18, 20-34 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Scott, U.S. Patent No. 5,365,686 (“Scott”).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s characterization of the references; however, for the sake of expediting issuance of this case, Applicant has incorporated the allowable limitations of claims 15-17 into claim 6 and of claims 33-35 into claim 20. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawals of the rejection of claims 6 and 20 and their dependent claims. Claim 1-5, 15-17 and 33-35 have been cancelled without prejudice.

New Claims

New claims 36-44 have been added. Claim 36 contains limitations similar to those of claim 6 and is thus allowable over the references.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Charge our Deposit Account


Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: _____

10.29.04


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